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Staff photo — Rod Aydelotte

Jim Wren (left to right), Marvin Donnell, Cheryl Tucker and Johnny Tucker worked together on a second gospel music tape. The tape will premiere at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday at West Robinson Baptist Church, where Donnell is the pastor. The lyrics are focused on the family and working-class issues.

A MAN WITH A MUSICAL MISSION

By LoANA GONZALES
Special to Neighbor

Pastor spreads word through tapes

The Rev. Marvin Donnell says he is handing out cassette tapes after the Lord handed him an idea.

Donnell, pastor of West Robinson Baptist Church, said that after driving to Atlanta in 1989 he told his wife he would like to see truck drivers given country and western gospel music to listen to while driving those long hours on the road.

"I prayed about it and the Lord showed me to do it myself," he said.

The National Truck Drivers Gospel Music Ministry was born and a first tape was produced in 1990. Donnell and other musicians and producers have now completed a second tape and will premiere it along with an accompanying video at 6:30 p.m. Sunday at West Robinson Baptist on West Moonlight Drive.

"Coming Home," recorded a little less than a month ago, is the title and the theme of the latest cassette tape. Donnell said it is not just for truck drivers because it focuses on the family and its needs.

The tape can be purchased for a donation of at least $6 at the Good News Book Store. The donation in turn pays for approximately five tapes to be given out free in truck stops across the state.

"No one gets a salary," said Donnell, who does the lead vocals on the tape and writes the songs. "All the money goes to tapes and distribution."

Jim Wren, executive producer, said their goal is to go nationwide with the distribution.

Wren, who lives in Waco, is the president of Amigos Internacionales, a worldwide non-profit organization based in Waco. The National Truck Drivers Gospel Music Ministry is a division of the Amigos.

"The Amigos also get no money from the sales of the tapes," Wren said.

Donnell said he wanted to record a country and western sound that truck drivers would like to listen to instead of other types of music they may hear on the road.

The latest tape and the ministry received nationwide publicity recently when Donnell was interviewed on "Prime Time America," a variety talk show on KMBI in Chicago, which reached 184 radio stations.

Johnny Tucker of Waco, producer of "Coming Home" and a backup vocal on the tape, said he produced the tape because the first tape, "Here's to you, America," received a tremendous response in 1990.

He said the country and western sound on the new tape is not like the average

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